

WELCOMING J.W. DUNCAN

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, at 5:19 this afternoon, I became a grandfather.

My middle son, J.P. Duncan, had our first grandchild, John Waylon, J.W. Duncan, 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and you can tell this Congressman is excited.

KAVYA JAKASANIA WINS COUNTY SPELLING BEE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a great speller in my district, Kavya Jakasania. The seventh grade student at Frank R. Conwell, Middle School 4, in Jersey City won the 2023 Hudson County Spelling Bee recently.

Kavya bested a field of 62 of my district's top spellers to take the crown. It was a tough battle to the end, but after 12 rounds, Kavya spelled the word "internecine" correctly to win the spelling bee.

For my edification and for my colleagues who are curious about "internecine," it means deadly or marked by great slaughter.

With her victory, Kavya advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 30 through June 1. I know she will do a great job.

She has already made me, her school, and her family very proud of her success.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT MARK LETT

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Senior Master Sergeant Mark Lett, an American hero who retired after 26 faithful years of service from the United States Air Force in 2011.

Senior Master Sergeant Lett was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, and attended Carter High School. He joined the Air Force in 1985.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Lett served as an in-flight refueling specialist on a KC-135 aircraft in addition to serving as a flight instructor and flight engineer.

During his long career, he was stationed in five States across the United States. While serving as a flight engineer, he deployed to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He received numerous awards during his Air Force career, including the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and many more.

After retiring from the Air Force in 2011, he returned to Knoxville. In July

2014, I was pleased to note that he joined the Knox County Veterans Services as the deputy veterans service officer.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize American hero Senior Master Sergeant Lett as Tennessee Second District's Veteran of the Month.

PUTTING PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats are putting people over politics by lowering kitchen-table costs, creating better-paying jobs, cutting costs for healthcare coverage, and capping out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors.

However, extreme MAGA Republicans have an economic plan that would do just the opposite. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are set to advance a new 30 percent national sales tax. This will increase the average family's costs for groceries and essentials by hundreds of dollars each and every month.

Some MAGA Republicans say they want to cut Social Security and Medicare, and working families will lose their hard-earned benefits. They are putting special interests of the few over the working-class majority.

House Democrats will continue to fight for working families. We will always put people over politics and seniors over party, and we will always, always put people first.

PETE BUTTIGIEG SHOULD RESIGN

(Mr. COLLINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, to resign immediately.

The Secretary's priorities don't line up with what the American people expect from him. Buttigieg has failed to execute DOT's mission, which is to improve the quality and safety of our Nation's transportation system.

Instead, he is laser-focused on wokeness at the agency and in our culture. Think about it. He took 10 days to even acknowledge the devastating train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.

During those 10 days, as Ohioans fled from their homes and feared for their health, he did find time to say that there are too many White people in the construction industry. I don't know about you, but when I see the men and women who build the structures that house us and the roads that connect us, I am not thinking about their race. I just appreciate that they are doing the hard work that is necessary for our society to thrive.

It is time for Pete to go back to Indiana so someone serious about building

infrastructure and transportation systems that are safe and effective can start getting the job done.

OUR SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE WILL NOT WAVER

(Mr. NICKEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the free and independent nation of Ukraine.

It has been over a year since Vladimir Putin ordered his tanks and troops into Ukraine. In the past year, the United States has led an extraordinary coalition of global partners to stand against Russia's unprovoked and brutal invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I traveled to Ukraine with then-Vice President Al Gore in the 1990s as a staffer, and it fills my heart with pride to know that Kyiv still stands strong. Ukraine is still free, and democracy still prevails. Our support for Ukraine will not waver.

I wish we didn't have to spend any money in Ukraine, but if Putin wins, we will spend a thousand times more trying to contain an emboldened and aggressive Russia.

We must continue to stand with Ukraine in their fight for freedom and democracy.

CONGRATULATING ARMSTRONG-INDIANA-CLARION DRUG AND ALCOHOL COMMISSION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission on winning the 2022 John W. Britt Community Service Award.

The John W. Britt Community Service Award is given to a non-law enforcement agency or entity that makes a significant contribution to the efforts of liquor and/or tobacco enforcement and demonstrates program effectiveness through underlying efforts and practices.

Mr. Speaker, the Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission provides alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and problem gambling prevention services within the three-county region to schools, universities, businesses, organizations, and other entities.

In 2021-2022, AICDAC partnered with Pennsylvania's Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement on several underage drinking prevention activities, a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder campaign, awareness presentations around prom season, and small games of chance trainings.

The AICDAC is a model example of programming and partnerships that have made and continue to make contributions to enhance the efforts of liquor enforcement and raise awareness in

the prevention of underage drinking through environmental strategies.

Congratulations to the AICDAC on this recognition.

LOS ANGELES URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE AID TÜRKIYE EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

(Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 132 to respond to the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

Three weeks ago, the world watched in horror as one of the deadliest earthquakes of the century hit southern Türkiye and northern Syria, causing destruction of epic proportions. The damage affected 20 million people in Türkiye and 8 million in Syria.

Amidst the tragedy, I recognize the heroism and courage of the nearly 240,000 rescue and aid workers who have responded to this disaster. I am deeply proud that an urban search and rescue team from my district in Los Angeles was deployed to Türkiye to assist in USAID's relief efforts just 18 hours after the earthquake first hit. Eighty personnel from the L.A. County Fire Department and eight members of the L.A. Sheriff's Department led the search for survivors and assessed over 6,000 buildings to determine their safety for residents.

As is always the case when disaster strikes, those who suffer most are the vulnerable and marginalized among us: civilians in rebel-led Syria who have endured the horror of Russian airstrikes and Assad's weaponization of aid; Syrian refugees seeking safety in Türkiye; and pregnant women, children, the elderly, and disabled people.

QUESTIONING SAFETY OF COVID-19 VACCINES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, many Americans have raised concerns over the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines.

We were told these shots were safe and effective. Now, we have information that raises serious doubts.

One pharmaceutical company asked that its research and safety data be hidden from the public for 75 years. What is to hide if these shots are safe and effective?

The Twitter files have shown that pharma companies and government agencies encouraged that social media giant to censor that information that raised doubts over the shots.

The vaccine information report that lists the potential side effects of the shot has been censored and left blank. This is what comes with the vials—censored, intentionally left blank. Amazing.

One company's representative even admitted they had no idea if their injections even worked before introducing them to the market. Several of these shots have already been pulled from the market, and others have had warning labels attached for young children and pregnant women, who were pushed into taking these injections.

Americans deserve the truth. Given the number of deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated people, it is very questionable and worth asking these questions. Are they effective? The next question is, are they even safe?

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CELEBRATING JOE JUAREZ'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the 100th birthday of my constituent, World War II veteran, Joe Juarez, a member of the Greatest Generation.

Joe was born in Fullerton, California. While growing up, his favorite sport was baseball.

In 1942, Joe and his high school baseball team were on their way to the CIF championship game, but they never made it because Joe and his teammates were drafted and served in World War II.

As a private first class, Joe fought in the Pacific and was awarded the Asia-Pacific Campaign Medal and a World War II Victory Medal. Joe spent 2½ years in the Pacific before returning home. Several of his teammates, including one of his brothers, never made it back.

Joe and his wife, Novel, were married for 68 years and raised three children.

Throughout his life, Joe has never forgotten his Band of Brothers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for this great country.

Happy birthday, Joe. Happy birthday. You are a true American hero.

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY ATTACK ON UKRAINE

(Ms. SHERRILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strength of the Ukrainian people after enduring 1 year of merciless attacks by Russian forces.

The following is from a record entry on Friday that marked the 1-year anniversary:

When Putin ordered his tanks and forces into regions like Mariupol and Kharkiv, he thought Ukraine would fall in a matter of days. Instead of an easy victory, Putin's war of aggression has been a dismal failure.

The people of Ukraine refused to be forced into an authoritarian state where any opposition is met with jail, torture, or murder. They are prepared

to pay the ultimate price for their freedom.

NATO is now more unified than ever in providing military, economic, and humanitarian assistance to support Ukraine's right to sovereignty.

Since the invasion, the United States has provided unprecedented support and coordination, which has helped the Ukrainian military make exponential gains.

Picatinny Arsenal in my congressional district has been integral to Ukraine's military success. They have developed the primary cannon being used by the Ukrainian army and continue to be responsible for every piece of ammunition being sent by the United States to Ukraine. I remain committed to protecting the fundamental values of peace, prosperity, and stability across the globe and in Ukraine.

REMEMBERING ARIELLE DIAMOND ANDERSON, BRIAN FRASER, AND ALEXANDRIA VERNER

(Mr. THANEDAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before this body to remind Congress of the following names:

Arielle Diamond Anderson, Brian Fraser, Alexandria Verner.

The lives of these three students were brutally taken from us this month on the campus of Michigan State University. Arielle Anderson and Brian Fraser were students at schools in my district.

Although this tragedy has personal significance for me today, it is a sad truth that until our country recognizes the sickness of gun violence, we will continue to have tragedies like this. These incidents are all too common in this country. We as a Congress must ensure and demand that these atrocities never happen again.

It is past due that we pass sensible gun laws that expand safe storage regulations, reform red flag laws, and improve access to mental health care.

Mr. Speaker, we can't keep living like this. We must act now.

ECSU AND NCWU CHAMPIONSHIP WINS

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Elizabeth City State University women's basketball team and North Carolina Wesleyan University men's basketball team for their remarkable championship wins this past weekend.

For Elizabeth City State University, this impressive achievement is the first CIAA championship win in the institution's 132-year history. The Lady Vikings showed everyone in the arena that teamwork brings home triumph.